



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Kansas City District

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Missouri River Update

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Of the nearly 630 miles of the Missouri River which falls under the Federal Levee program, north of Council Bluffs, Iowa to just west of St. Louis, Mo., about 50 percent is covered by federal levees managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The remaining flood damage reduction system comprises 500 miles of levees maintained by numerous private local levee districts. While the federal levee system is currently operating as designed, there are several instances of localized flooding due to breaches of levees not under the federal system.

“The district units are cognizant of the performance of their levees and maintain them well,” said Jud Kneuvean, Levee Rehabilitation Inspection program manager for the Corps. “Most of the units are small agricultural levees not built to the same specifications and heights of those in a federal program.”

Levees fall under three categories – Federal, Non-Federal and others.

Federal Levees:

Congressionally authorized Federal Levees are designed and built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. When completed, they are turned over to the non-federal sponsors (usually drainage and levee districts) for operation and maintenance. “From the beginning they are owned, and once built, operated and maintained by the sponsor,” said Kneuvean. “As long as a federal levee is operated and maintained to Corps standards, if it fails or is damaged by a flood, the federal government will pay for 100 percent of the repair costs.”

Non-Federal Levees:

Non-federal levees are built by other entities: communities, companies, or even individuals. “The Owners may apply for entry into the Public Law 84-99 program,” said Kneuvean. “They must undergo an initial eligibility inspection and meet engineering standards for design and construction. Once in the program, if they are damaged or fail in a flood, costs for repairing them are shared on an 80-percent federal and 20-percent non-federal basis.”

Other Levees

According to Kneuvean the levees that do fall under the other category have a lot of the same attributes as the non-federal levees. "Typically these levees are small privately owned levees that have chosen not to join the program. We will assist these levee owners during emergencies, to protect life and property but if they fail or are damaged, the cost of repair or replacement must be born totally by the owner," said Kneuvean.

When an impending disaster is greater than the capability of levee and drainage districts and local or state governments, the Corps has the authority under PL 84-99 to provide emergency flood protection of limited degree without specific authorization of Congress. The Corps can furnish assistance for flood emergency preparation, flood fighting and the repair and restoration of flood control works threatened or destroyed by a flood.

Current Corps Operations:

The Kansas City District's Emergency Operations Center continues to operate on a 24-hour shift monitoring the lowering crest and engaging the local state emergency operations districts to assist in localized flood protection efforts. In addition to the center located in Kansas City, Mo., field offices at Kanopolis Lake, Wilson Lake, Milford Lake, Tuttle Creek Lake, Smithville Lake, Longview Lake, Blue Springs Lake, Clinton Lake, Hillsdale Lake and the Missouri River Area Office, to include subordinate offices, are similarly engaged in local efforts.

The district commander, Col. Michael Rossi, has deployed to various locations throughout the basin to engage local agencies and provide Corps support to their efforts.

Deployed Field Teams supplying technical support to the levee district at St. Joseph, Mo., and Elwood, Kan., report that both federal levees performed as designed and the river stages are receding. The team is now deployed to a levee unit district at Brunswick and Chariton County area and will remain there until the crest passes. Other Corps liaisons continue to monitor and provide situation reports from Glasgow and Jefferson City.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will continue to update the affected regions on the response as information comes in. The EOC will be operating 24 hours until the determination has been made that it is no longer necessary. For current information call (816) 426-6320 or (816) 389-2427.

For more information from the Corps regarding the management of the storm runoff, visit the district Flood 2007 web page at www.nwk.usace.army.mil, click on "Flood 2007 Information."

Additional online links to water levels can be found at www.crh.noaa.gov. Click on the link titled "Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service."

For the past 100 years, the Kansas City District has been providing flood damage reduction and related support to the heartland. For more information, call the Kansas City District Public Affairs office at (816) 389-3486. www.nwk.usace.army.mil

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